



Handout 1 – *Took the Children Away* – Lyrics and Questions

This story's right, this story's true
I would not tell lies to you
Like the promises they did not keep
And how they fenced us in like sheep.
Said to us come take our hand
Set us up on mission land.
Taught us to read, to write and pray
Then they took the children away,
Took the children away,
The children away.
Snatched from their mother's breast
Said this is for the best
Took them away.

The welfare man, the policeman
Said you've got to understand
We'll give them what you can't give
Teach them how to really live.
Teach them how to live they said
Humiliated them instead
Taught them that and taught them this
And others taught them prejudice.
You took the children away
The children away
Breaking their mother's heart
Tearing us all apart
Took them away

One dark day on Framlingham
Came and didn't give a damn
My mother cried, 'Go get their dad'
He came running, fighting mad
Mother's tears were falling down
Dad shaped up and stood his ground.
He said 'You touch my kids and you fight me'
And they took us from our family.
Took us away
They took us away
Snatched from our mother's breast
Said this was for the best
Took us away.

Told us what to do and say
Told us all the white man's ways
Then they split us up again
And gave us gifts to ease the pain
Sent us off to foster homes
As we grew up we felt alone
Cause we were acting white
Yet feeling black
One sweet day all the children came back
The children came back
The children came back
Back where their hearts grow strong
Back where they all belong
The children came back
Said the children came back
The children came back
Back where they understand
Back to their mother's land
The children came back

Back to their mother
Back to their father
Back to their sister
Back to their brother
Back to their people
Back to their land
All the children came back
The children came back
The children came back
Yes I came back.

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'Walk The Talk'

THE LONG WALK EDUCATION PROGRAM

Name: _____

Discussion Questions

1. What is your initial response to the song? What does it make you think? What does it make you feel? What images come to mind?
2. How would you describe Archie Roach's voice? What emotions does he convey in his voice alone? Are these emotions the same in every verse?
3. Look at the underlined lyrics. What is the significance of each underlined phrase? Make your notes on the lyrics page.
4. Which other lyrics in the song have importance to you? Describe their significance.
5. What is the difference between the first two verses and the third?
6. How is the fourth verse different from the previous three? Which term below do you think most accurately describes it's feeling? Why?
 - a. Complete
 - b. Hopeful
 - c. RegretfulWould you choose a different descriptor? Why?
7. What have you learned about the Stolen Generations from this song? Add your knowledge to the KWL sheet (Handout 2).